



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by:
Susan Danson, MPA, QPA, ICMA-CM
Township Manager
February 2026

Annual Report 2025

Vision

Maple Shade is a welcoming community that thoughtfully balances responsible growth, neighborhood character, fiscal stability, and a high quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Mission

The Township of Maple Shade is committed to delivering responsive, transparent, and efficient municipal services; investing in infrastructure and community assets; and fostering civic pride through collaboration, innovation, and sound governance.

Core Values

- Accountability and Transparency
 - Fiscal Responsibility
 - Service Excellence
- Integrity and Professionalism
 - Community Engagement
- Sustainability and Resilience



Nice Town, Friendly People

Governing Body and Administration (2025)



Mayor
Heather Talarico



Deputy Mayor
John Zahradnick



Councilman
Charles Kauffman



Councilwoman
Sandra Nunes



Councilman
Andrew Simonsick, Sr

Township Manager
Susan Danson, MPA, QPA, ICMA-CM

Township Clerk
Andrea McVeigh, RMC

Chief Financial Officer
Jessica Heaton, CMFO

Chief of Police
Christopher Fletcher

Tax Collector
Christine Taylor, CTC

Tax Assessor
Linda Rogers, CTA

Director of Public Works
Patrick Lyons, CPWM

Utilities Manager
Will Gray

Fire Chief
Andrew Simonsick, Jr.

A Message from the Township Manager



Dear Council and Residents,

I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report for Maple Shade Township. This document reflects our commitment to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and community service excellence throughout the past year.

2025 marked a significant year for our township as we continued to advance critical infrastructure improvements, enhance public safety services, and maintain financial stability. Our dedicated team across all departments worked tirelessly to serve our residents while managing our resources prudently.

This report highlights our major accomplishments, financial performance, departmental achievements, and strategic initiatives that will shape our community's future. We remain steadfast in our mission to provide quality municipal services while fostering a safe, vibrant community where families and businesses can thrive.

I look forward to continued partnership with the Township Council, our department heads, and community members as we build upon this year's successes.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Danson".

Susan Danson, MPA, QPA, ICMA-CM
Township Manager

Office of the Municipal Clerk

Andrea T. McVeigh, RMC

The Office of the Municipal Clerk serves as the cornerstone of transparency, statutory compliance, and democratic governance in the Township of Maple Shade. As the custodian of official municipal records and the Secretary to the Governing Body, the Clerk's Office ensures that Township business is conducted in accordance with State law while remaining accessible and responsive to residents, businesses, and community organizations.

In 2025, the Clerk's Office supported the Mayor and Township Council through the preparation, coordination, and official recordkeeping of 24 public meetings, including the development of agendas, ordinances, resolutions, and meeting minutes. The office also played a central role in election administration and provided procedural guidance to boards, commissions, and Township departments.

2025 Performance Benchmarks

- 345 Mercantile Licenses issued to support local businesses
- 332 OPRA requests received, processed, and responded to in compliance with statutory deadlines
- 118 Marriage Licenses processed
- 71 Bingo and Raffle Licenses issued for nonprofit and community organizations
- 21 Liquor Licenses administered and renewed
- 15 Special Event Licenses issued
- Attended and served as Secretary to the Governing Body for 24 public meetings

Throughout the year, the Clerk's Office remained focused on accuracy, timeliness, and customer service, ensuring public access to information while safeguarding the integrity of official Township records. The office plays a critical role in promoting transparency, supporting civic engagement, and upholding the principles of effective local governance.



Public Safety

Keeping Maple Shade safe through service, professionalism, and community partnership

Maple Shade Police Department

The Maple Shade Police Department maintained a high level of operational activity in 2025, responding to 27,155 total calls for service throughout the year. Officers conducted 2,245 traffic stops, responded to 724 motor vehicle accidents without injuries and 29 injury-related accidents, and performed 5,728 property checks and 833 well-being checks across the community. These efforts reflect the department's proactive patrol strategy and ongoing focus on traffic safety, visibility, and quality-of-life concerns. In addition to enforcement and response, officers continued to prioritize training, professionalism, and coordination with Fire and EMS to ensure effective, multi-agency emergency response.



In 2025, the Maple Shade Police Department's Detective Bureau continued to demonstrate its commitment to thorough, long-term investigations, including major cases that drew regional attention. Working in partnership with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, the FBI, and the New Jersey State Police, detectives helped bring murder charges in the 2017 homicides of Sasikala and Anish Narra, a "cold case" that required years of forensic follow-up, technological analysis, and interagency coordination. This work, along with numerous other felony investigations handled by the bureau, underscores their role in securing justice for victims, strengthening community safety, and demonstrating that serious crimes committed in Maple Shade will be relentlessly pursued, no matter how much time has passed.

A key component of the department's community-focused approach in 2025 was the continued work of the Community Affairs Officer, who served as an important liaison between the Police Department and the public. Through participation in community events, school and youth engagement, senior outreach, and neighborhood initiatives, the Community Affairs Officer helped strengthen trust, foster open communication, and promote crime prevention through education. This role plays a vital part in building positive relationships and ensuring that Maple Shade's policing strategy remains approachable, responsive, and grounded in community partnership.

Public Safety

Keeping Maple Shade safe through service, professionalism, and community partnership



Maple Shade Fire Department

In 2025, the Maple Shade Fire Department was called to 565 calls for service, providing fire suppression, rescue operations, and emergency response across the Township. Calls included structure and vehicle fires, alarm activations, and rescues,

The department supported this work through training, routine equipment maintenance, and coordinated responses with neighboring departments, our Police Department and Emergency Medical Services. Operations in 2025 continued to focus on timely response, firefighter safety, and sound incident management practices consistent with established standards and protocols.

Maple Shade EMS

Emergency Medical Services responded to 3,409 calls for service in 2025, providing emergency medical care and transport for residents and visitors. EMS personnel addressed a wide range of medical and trauma-related incidents and worked in coordination with the Police and Fire Departments during multi-agency responses.



EMS agencies across New Jersey continue to experience significant challenges, including sustained staffing shortages, increasing call volumes, rising operational costs, and heightened service demands. These pressures have impacted EMS systems statewide. Despite these challenges, Maple Shade's EMS operations remained resilient in 2025, maintaining consistent response capability through careful coordination, training, and operational oversight.

As part of its long-term sustainability efforts, the Township and EMS leadership continue to encourage community involvement and actively welcome those interested in serving their neighbors. Recruitment and retention remain important priorities as Maple Shade works to ensure the continued strength and reliability of its emergency medical services.



The Department of Public Works (DPW) continued to play a critical behind-the-scenes role in keeping Maple Shade safe, functional, and well-maintained year round. In 2025, DPW staff continued to demonstrate professionalism, responsiveness, and adaptability while managing seasonal demands, weather events, infrastructure maintenance, and daily municipal services that residents rely on. Throughout the year, DPW oversaw extensive seasonal operations, including multiple rounds of leaf collection, weekly brush pickup, and routine street sweeping in compliance with NJDEP regulations. Crews maintained the Township's business district, municipal buildings, parks, and public spaces, ensuring that Main Street, municipal parking areas, and public properties remained clean, safe, and accessible. After years of deferred maintenance, the DPW Garage received long-overdue improvements, including fresh paint, new windows, and upgraded lighting, marking an important step in reinvesting in this essential facility.

Winter operations remained a major focus, with proactive storm preparation such as brining roadways, stocking salt barns, outfitting trucks with spreaders, and responding to snow events. Following winter storms, DPW addressed fallen trees, completed roadway plowing and salting, and made necessary repairs to vehicles and equipment to ensure continued readiness. These efforts highlight the department's ability to respond quickly to changing conditions while maintaining public safety

DPW also continued to advance important infrastructure and environmental responsibilities, including stormwater system inspection. Crews routinely cleared storm inlets ahead of heavy rain events and maintained playground surfaces, helping to reduce flooding risks and improve safety in public spaces. In addition, the department managed a wide range of support services that often go unseen but are essential to municipal operations. These included fleet maintenance and fuel tracking, recycling and hazardous materials handling, and assistance to residents with recycling education. DPW staff also supported community initiatives by assisting with special events logistics when needed.

The work of the Department of Public Works is foundational to the Township's quality of life. Their dedication ensures that Maple Shade's roads are passable, facilities are operational, public spaces are maintained, and residents are supported every day of the year. We thank our DPW for their continued commitment, flexibility, and pride in serving our community.

Utility Operations Summary – 2025

Under the leadership and operational management of Woodard & Curran, the Township of Maple Shade's water and wastewater utilities operated safely, reliably, and in full compliance throughout 2025. All required drinking water and wastewater samples met NJDEP permit requirements, with no compliance violations reported, ensuring the continued protection of public health and the environment.

During the year, the Township advanced several critical utility initiatives, including lead service line replacement planning, preparation for PFAS and emerging contaminant treatment requirements, and ongoing investigation and mitigation of inflow and infiltration (I&I) within the sewer system. Utility operations also focused on maintaining aging infrastructure, responding to system needs, and advancing long-term capital planning strengthen system resiliency and reliability for Maple Shade residents.



**TO REPORT A WATER OR SEWER
EMERGENCY
CALL 856-488-7450 24 HOURS A DAY
7 DAYS A WEEK**

Tax / Utility Collector

In 2025, the Tax & Utility Collector's Office continued to fulfill its core responsibilities of billing, collecting, and distributing property taxes, utility payments, and statutory licenses in an accurate, timely, and compliant manner on behalf of the Township of Maple Shade.

Total property tax collections for the year exceeded \$52.8 million. Of that total, approximately \$32.3 million was levied for the local school district, representing the portion of property taxes collected on behalf of the Maple Shade Board of Education and remitted accordingly for educational funding.

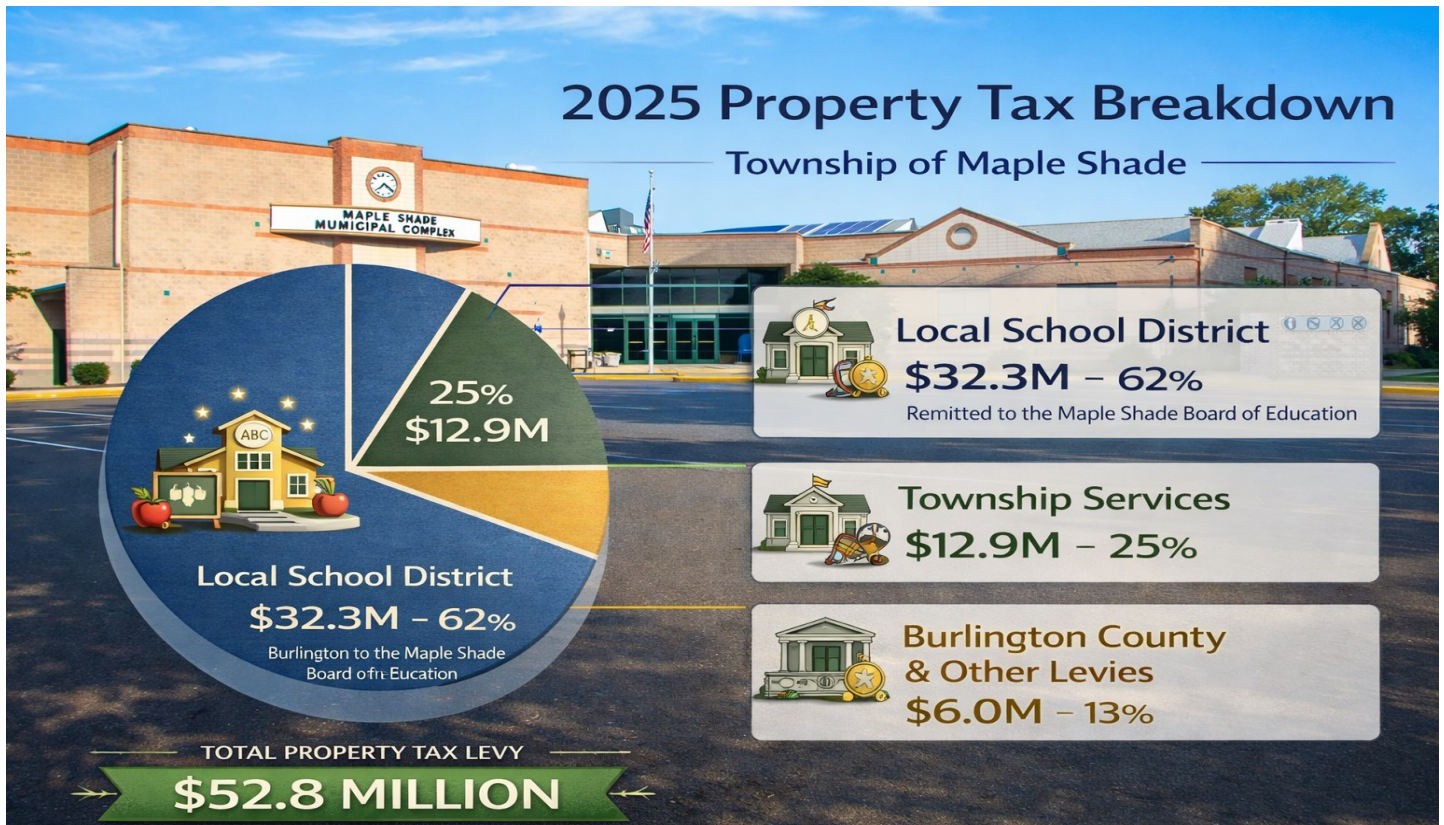
The Township's strong collection performance is reflected in an Edmunds collection ratio of 98.96%, underscoring both effective collection practices and strong taxpayer compliance.

The office also administered the billing and collection of water and sewer utility charges, collecting approximately \$8.88 million in utility revenue in support of the ongoing operation, maintenance, and system improvements of the Township's water and wastewater systems.

In addition, the Tax & Utility Collector's Office issued 505 dog licenses in compliance with state requirements and continued to provide responsive customer service for residents and businesses regarding tax bills, utility accounts, payment options, and licensing inquiries.

Overall, the Tax & Utility Collector's Office remained essential to the Township's fiscal operations in 2025, ensuring the reliable flow of revenues that support municipal services, utilities, and local education for the residents of Maple Shade.





New for 2026: AutoPay

Starting in 2026, Maple Shade residents may enroll in AutoPay for property tax and utility payments through the Township’s online payment portal. AutoPay automatically schedules payments from a selected payment method on applicable due dates, helping residents avoid missed payments and late fees. Enrollment can be updated or canceled at any time through the online portal, offering a convenient and flexible payment option for our community.

AutoPay Enrollment – Quick Steps

1. Log in to the Township’s online payment portal (or register for an account).
2. Verify your email and complete account setup.
3. Select Manage Billing Accounts and link your tax and/or utility accounts.
4. Click AutoPay Enrollment, choose Edit, and select Enrolled.
5. Choose a payment method and Save.

Payments will be automatically processed on the applicable due dates once enrollment is complete

www.mapleshade.com

Financial Performance & Budget Overview

In 2025, the Township of Maple Shade adopted a fiscally conservative and strategically balanced municipal budget, totaling \$18.5 million in appropriations. This budget reflects the Township's continued commitment to delivering essential services, maintaining infrastructure, and supporting quality of life, while remaining mindful of affordability for residents.

The Township's financial strategy focused on long-term stability, disciplined spending, and diversified revenue sources. Total general fund revenues for 2025 were approximately \$18.4 million, generated through a balanced mix of property taxes, state aid, local revenues, and fees. Importantly, property taxes accounted for approximately only 40% of total municipal revenues, demonstrating that Maple Shade actively leverages grants, shared revenues, and service fees to reduce reliance on the local tax base.

Revenue Sources At A Glance

In the 2025 Budget, State Aid and Grants made up 25% of total revenues, highlighting the Township's success in securing outside funding to support operations and capital needs. Local revenues and fees, permits, and licenses collectively accounted for another 30%, reflecting strong internal revenue management and economic activity within the community.

On the expenditure side, the Township's spending priorities were clearly aligned with core services residents rely on most. Public safety and public works together represented 50% of total appropriations, underscoring the Township's focus on safety, infrastructure, and day-to-day municipal operations.

How Your Tax Dollars Were Spent

Administrative services, public safety, parks and recreation, land use and public works were funded at levels that ensure operational efficiency while supporting community programs and long-term planning. Our debt as of 12/31/2025 was 1.037% of our equalized valuation basis (\$2,138,875,932.67), which was down from 2024's of 1.185%. State law generally limits municipal net debt to 3.5% of the average equalized valuation, which means our current level is only about one-third of the maximum allowed. The township is carrying a very low level of debt relative to its property tax base and the reduction of the debt burden over the last year is positive for day-to-day operations and long-term capital planning.

Financial Performance & Budget Overview

Strong Financial Position

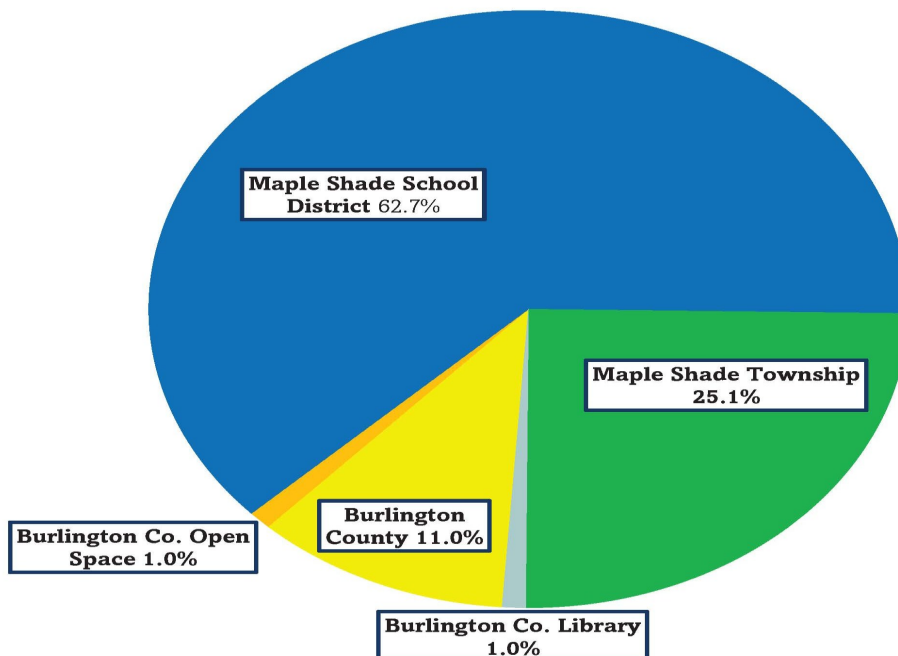
Despite continued inflationary pressures affecting municipalities nationwide, Maple Shade limited the municipal tax rate increase to 1.2% in 2025, remaining below the inflation rate while still meeting operational and capital needs. The Township's AA- equivalent credit profile reflects strong financial management, conservative budgeting, and long-term stability and because our debt level is low and declining, we spend less of the annual budget on debt payments and more on day-to-day services like public works, safety, and community programs.

A Responsible Approach to Municipal Finance

Overall, the 2025 municipal budget reflected a thoughtful, transparent, and responsible approach to governance. Our conservative use of debt also keeps borrowing capacity available for future projects, so we can finance major improvements without jeopardizing routine operations.

Through careful planning, diversified revenues, and disciplined spending, Maple Shade continues to protect essential services, invest in infrastructure, and position itself for long-term financial sustainability, all while remaining sensitive to the impact on taxpayers.

2025 Tax Rate Allocation



RECREATION

In 2025, the Township of Maple Shade’s Recreation Department continued to strengthen community engagement and provide residents of all ages with memorable, inclusive, and free or low-cost programming. The Department hosted a variety of signature events and seasonal activities that brought neighbors together, supported local causes, and promoted wellness and family-friendly fun throughout the year .



Annual favorites such as Touch-A-Truck, Concerts in the Park and Outdoor Movie Nights at the Woodlawn Sports Complex returned, offering interactive experiences for children and families. Seasonal activities were enhanced with community traditions like Santa’s Mailbox, which encouraged resident participation and holiday spirit, and collection drives supporting local needs and student initiatives.

The Department also maintained accessible drop-off locations for community collections and collaborated with partners such as the Burlington County Animal Shelter and the County Board of Health to support animal welfare initiatives, demonstrating a spirit of civic partnership and shared impact beyond recreation alone .

Overall, 2025 was marked by strong community turnout, diverse programming, and enhanced opportunities for residents to connect, volunteer, and celebrate life in Maple Shade. The Recreation Department remains committed to expanding experiences that enrich community life and foster neighborhood connections.

NOTEWORTHY RECREATION PROGRAMS IN 2025

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cooking Classes | Hosted 4 Senior Groups |
| Mayors Wellness Campaign | Special Needs Group |
| Health Fairs | Ludosports |
| Concerts in the Park | Movies in the Park |
| Touch A Truck | Easter Egg Hunt |
| Independence Day Festivities | Halloween Parade |
| Santa Photos | |

And so much more!

Capital Improvements & Infrastructure Investments

In 2025, the Township of Maple Shade advanced an extensive portfolio of capital, infrastructure, utility, public safety, and recreation projects. These efforts reflect a coordinated approach to addressing aging infrastructure, improving safety, enhancing public facilities, and leveraging outside funding to reduce the local tax burden, while positioning the Township for long-term resilience and sustainability.

Completed Projects in 2025

Several significant projects were completed during the year, delivering immediate benefits to residents and municipal operations:

- The **CDBG Food Bank Renovation** was completed in February 2025, modernizing the Maple Shade Food Bank located in the Municipal Building basement. The \$175,000+ project, funded mostly from a grant, improved accessibility and functionality, supporting residents in need
- **Howard R. Yocum Elementary School Sidewalk Improvements** were completed in August 2025, including sidewalk replacement and ADA compliant ramp installations along North Forklanding Road to enhance pedestrian safety for students, families, and school staff.
- **FY 2024 NJDOT Municipal Aid Roadway Improvements on North Coles Avenue and Roland Avenue** achieved substantial completion in November 2025. The project was supported by \$174,080 in NJDOT grant funding and significantly improved roadway conditions in key residential corridors.
- **East Front Street and Alexander Avenue Road Improvements** was completed and entered final close-out stages in late 2025; this project was supported by nearly \$500,000 in combined NJDOT Municipal Aid and Transportation Trust Fund grants
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Screw Pump Upgrades** were completed, resolving warranty issues and restoring normal pump operations to ensure reliable wastewater service
- **Main Street Pump Station Force Main Replacement – Phase I** replaced failing 14-inch ductile iron piping along Route 73, strengthening a critical component of the Township’s wastewater system
- **Water Main Replacements** on County Avenue, Rose Avenue, and Alexander Avenue were completed in compliance with NJDEP Water Quality Act requirements, improving system reliability.

Capital Improvements & Infrastructure Investments

Projects that remain under construction, design, or regulatory review:

- **Stormwater Discharge General Permit Renewal** work continued, including infrastructure mapping and watershed inventory efforts required by NJDEP, forming the basis for future flood mitigation and compliance initiatives
- **Buttonwood Park Drainage Improvements** advanced through completed drainage analysis and preparation of final plans, which are critical to supporting the forthcoming playground reconstruction.
- **Buttonwood Park Playground Improvements** moved into final design following the Township securing over \$775,000 in Green Acres and, with construction coordinated alongside stormwater improvements for the area.
- **North Terrace Avenue Road Improvements** progressed through design and permitting, supported by \$233,000 in NJDOT Municipal Aid funding, with construction anticipated following advertisement in 2026.
- **Broadway and North Forklanding Road Drainage Improvements** advanced into design following the discovery of deteriorated storm infrastructure during sanitary sewer work, ensuring coordinated and cost-effective reconstruction.
- **Thomas Avenue Drainage and Roadway Improvements** continued through investigation, storm pipe cleaning, and televising, with the Township awarded \$162,529 in NJDOT Municipal Aid funding to support future improvements.
- **Maple Heights Road Improvements** entered the survey and design phase to address traffic impacts and roadway conditions between Cherry Avenue and South Walnut Avenue.
- **Windsor Avenue Sewer Video Inspections** A sewer conditions investigation was completed for the entirety of Windsor Avenue. Design is currently underway and money is being budgeted through Utility Capital to complete improvement in two phases. A complete roadway mill and overlay will follow sewer rehabilitation work.
- **Police Department Renovations** progressed through design and regulatory approvals. Following an initial bid that exceeded cost expectations, the project was responsibly redesigned with alternate options and is scheduled for rebid in early 2026

2025 NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Workplace Recognition

Maple Shade selected as a 2025 NJ Top 25 Workplace by Advance Media
Sustainable Maple Shade Earned Sustainable Jersey Silver Certification
Healthy Town Up-And-Coming Designation - NJ Health Care Institute and NJ
Mayors Wellness Campaign

Professional Recognition

Jessica Heaton	Passed both the CFMO and QPA State Licensure Exams
Lauren Domzalski	Passed the Multi-Dwelling and Hotel Inspection Licensure Exam
Karen McShane	Passed the Land Use Board State Certification & Licensure Exam
Jennifer Nixon	Earned the Affordable Housing Professionals State Certification
Patrick Lyons	Passed the Certified Public Works Manager State Licensure Exam
Susan Danson	Earned the International City/County Management Association Credentialed Manager Certification
Barry Chamberlain	Passed the CDL Exam